

UTAH'S MOTORCYCLE AND SIMILAR VEHICLES LAWS

Do I need a license to ride any of these devices?

Yes! According to Utah Traffic Code 53-3-202 a person must be licensed to operate any motor vehicle on public roads. The definition of a motor vehicle under UCA 41-6a-102 states: a “motor vehicle means a vehicle which is self-propelled...” There are two exceptions to this. One is the “motor-assisted scooter” and the other is the “electric personal assistive mobility device”.

Please see below to determine what license and endorsement you will need for the device you plan to ride.

What is a motorcycle?

A motorcycle is a motor vehicle, other than a tractor, having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel with not more than three wheels in contact with the ground.

A driver's license and a motorcycle endorsement are required to ride a motorcycle on public roads and lands.



Restrictions

Depending on the size motorcycle you are tested upon, you may be restricted to what size motorcycle you are permitted ride.

These restrictions are:

- 0 = 90 cc or less
- 2 = 249 cc or less
- 3 = 649 cc or less

If you are tested on a motorcycle with 650 cubic centimeters or more, you will have no restriction on your license and you may ride any size motorcycle.

If you are tested on a three-wheeled motorcycle you will have a restriction on your license allowing you to only ride 3 wheeled motorcycles. This includes two wheels on the front or the rear of the motorcycle.



What is a motor-driven cycle?

A motor-driven cycle is a motorcycle, motor scooter, moped, electric assisted bicycle, motor assisted scooter, and every motorized bicycle having an engine with less than 150 cubic centimeters displacement, or a motor which produces not more than 5 horsepower.



A driver's license and a restricted motorcycle endorsement are required to ride a smaller motorcycle and a motor scooter. In some states, other than Utah, a small motor scooter is sometimes called a moped.

What is a motorized bicycle? (Moped)

There are two types of motorized bicycles, defined in Utah's Traffic Code section 41-6a.

1. **Moped** – A motor-driven cycle having pedals to permit propulsion by human power and a motor which produces not more than two brake horsepower. The motor is not capable of propelling the cycle at a speed in excess of 30 MPH on level ground. If an internal combustion engine is used, the displacement may not exceed 50 cubic centimeters and the moped must have a power drive system that functions directly or automatically without clutching or shifting by the rider after the drive system is engaged.
2. **Electric assisted bicycle** – A moped with an electric motor with a power output of not more than 1,000 watts and is not capable of propelling the device at a speed of more than 20 MPH on level ground, or increasing the speed of the device when human power is used.



A driver license is required to operate a motorized bicycle; however a motorcycle endorsement is not.

What is a motor assisted scooter?

A motor assisted scooter is a self-propelled device with at least two wheels in contact with the ground, a braking system capable of stopping the unit under typical operating conditions, and a gas or electric motor not larger than 40 cubic centimeters. It also must either have a deck designed for a person to stand on while operating the device, or a deck and seat designed for a person to sit, straddle, or stand while operating the device. The motor assisted scooter must be designed for the ability to be propelled by human power alone.

No license is needed; however, a person under 15 years of age may not operate a motor assisted scooter, using the motor, unless the person is under the direct supervision of the person's parent or guardian. A person under 8 years of age may not operate a motor assisted scooter with the motor running on any public property, highway, path, or sidewalk.



No person may operate a motor assisted scooter:

- 1) in a public parking structure,*
- 2) on public property posted as an area prohibiting skateboards,*
- 3) on a highway consisting of a total of four or more lanes designated for regular vehicular traffic,*
- 4) on a roadway with a posted speed limit greater than 25 miles per hour,*
- 5) while carrying more people at one time than the number for which it is designed, or*
- 6) that has been structurally or mechanically altered from the original manufacturer's design.*

What is a mini-motorcycle/pocket bike?

A mini-motorcycle is a motor-driven cycle that has a seat or saddle that is less than 24 inches from the ground as measured on a level surface with properly inflated tires. A mini-motorcycle does not include a moped or motor assisted scooter, or a motorcycle that is designed for off-highway use and registered as an off-highway vehicle.



A person may not operate a mini-motorcycle on any public property or highway unless the mini-motorcycle is registered for highway use and the operator is licensed to operate a motorcycle.

Special Note: *Many cities in Utah have passed ordinances not allowing mini-motorcycles to be driven on the city's streets. Check with your city for more information.*

What is an Electric personal assistive mobility device?

An electric personal assistive mobility device is a self-balancing device with:

- 1) Two non-tandem wheels in contact with the ground;
- 2) A system capable of steering and stopping the unit under typical operating conditions;
- 3) An electric propulsion system with average power of one horsepower or 750 watts; and
- 4) A maximum speed capacity on a paved, level surface of 12.5 miles per hour. This does not include a wheelchair.



What is a street-legal ATV? (EFFECTIVE OCT 1, 2008)

A street-legal ATV is an all-terrain type vehicle that is modified to meet the requirements of Utah Traffic Code 41-6a-1509 to operate on a street or highway with one lane in each direction.

Unless the street or highway is designated as open for street-legal ATV use, a person may not operate a street-legal ATV on a street or highway if the highway is under the jurisdiction:

- 1) a county of the first class;
- 2) a municipality that is within a county of the first class; or
- 3) a municipality with a population of 7,500 or more people.

The street-legal ATV must comply with the same requirements as a motorcycle for:

- 1) traffic rules
- 2) driver licensing
- 3) registration, titling, odometer statement, vehicle identification, license plates, and registration fees,
- 4) the county motor vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance programs.

The street-legal ATV must also comply with the same requirements as a motor vehicle for:

- 1) insurance
- 2) safety inspections (when registered for the first time)



The operator of a street-legal ATV, while operating on a street or highway, may not exceed the lesser of the:

- 1) posted speed limit, or
- 2) 45 miles per hour

If you have a motorcycle endorsement on your current driver's license you are licensed to ride your registered street-legal ATV on permitted streets and highways.

If you do not have a motorcycle endorsement on your license and wish to ride a street-legal ATV on the streets and highways of this state you will need to apply for a restricted motorcycle endorsement at the Utah Driver License Division office nearest you. You will be required to pass a written motorcycle test (study the motorcycle manual) to receive a permit. This permit will allow you up to 6 months to prepare for the skills test. Once you feel you are ready for the skills test make an appointment for the test. You will be required to pass a modified motorcycle test on your **REGISTERED** street-legal ATV. If it does not have a street-legal license plate and registration we cannot test you.



The maneuvers for the test consist of:

- 1) a sharp left-hand turn
- 2) a quick stop
- 3) an obstacle swerve

After passing the skills test you will be issued a Utah driver's license with a M endorsement and a 4 restriction allowing you to ride street-legal ATVs but **NOT** motorcycles. If you would like to ride motorcycles you will need to have the 4 restriction removed by passing the skills test on a street-legal motorcycle.

What restrictions are on the motorcycle learner permit?

Every rider who receives a motorcycle learner permit will have the following restrictions on the permit for the first 2 months:

1. No passengers
2. No riding on highways posted greater than 60 mph
3. No riding between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless it is to or from the riders residence and place of employment, on an assignment from a rancher or farmer and the rider is engaged in an agricultural operation, or in an emergency.

After the first 2 months have ended the rider will have no restrictions on the permit.

Riders less than 19 years of age are required to hold the motorcycle learner permit for a minimum of 2 months unless the rider provides evidence that the Motorcycle Safety Foundations Basic Rider Education course has been successfully completed.